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'Mr. Conservative" Sizes Up Challenges Reagan Faces

From trimming the cost of military weapons to getting along with the Soviet Union, one of the Senate's most respected members speaks his mind in a wide-ranging interview.

Q You're on the Senate committee that oversees the Central Intelligence Agency. How good is U.S. intelligence?

A We have the fourth-best intelligence system in the world—behind Israel, England and Russia. We could do better, and I think in a few years we'll move up to second or third.

We've been lucky—most of our CIA directors have been good ones. But I don't think that job should be politically appointed. I want to see the next selection come from men who have been in there 20, 30, 40 years and know their way around.

Senator Pat Moynihan and I have a bill that would take that office out of politics. Although Bill Casey is doing a great job, I don't know whom the President would pick as the next director. But it should not be political.

EXCERPTED

Interview With Senator Barry Goldwater

Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, has been an outspoken advocate of conservative principles in the Senate for nearly 30 years. As the GOP presidential candidate in 1964, he lost to Lyndon Johnson. Now 75, he has announced plans to retire when his current term ends in two years.

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